



Illustration by Jeanne R. Janish,
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POLYSTICHUM KRUCKEBERGII
KRUCKEBERG'S SWORD-FERN

Kruckeberg's Sword-fern has evergreen fronds that are 9-35 cm long, and clustered on a short, ascending rhizome. Each frond consists of a scale-covered stalk that is 2-11 cm long and a narrowly lance-shaped blade that is 7-23 cm long and deeply lobed into 20-40 pinnae. Each pinna has a toothed and spiny margin, and the lower ones are lobed at the base. Circular clusters of sporangia are borne on the undersides of the upper pinnae, and are covered with a membranous indusium. Mature fronds in August

POLYSTICHUM KRUCKEBERGII is distinguished from the common *P. LONCHITES* by the lobed basal pinnae, and from *P. SCOPULINUM* by the spiny pinnae margins.